



## GRAND Democrats

[granddems.org](http://granddems.org)

### GENERAL MEETING MINUTES March 26, 2024

#### Call to Order:

President Bob Walling opened the meeting at 6:30 with the singing of the National Anthem followed by singing **Happy Birthday to Ethel Brown**, a longtime supporter, who is celebrating her 106<sup>th</sup> birthday. The event was recorded and will be sent to her by e-mail.

#### Introductions:

- Candidates for County offices: Greg Freeman for Assessor, Tyler Kamp for Sheriff, Laura Metcalfe for Superintendent of Schools, David Sandoval for Board of Supervisors, and Tamika Wooten for County Attorney, as well as Eric Stafford running for the Arizona Senate from LD29 and Tom Tzitzuri running for the House
- Speakers Eric Limb, Deputy Executive Director of the Maricopa Democratic Party, and Sarah Tyree, Chair of LD29.

#### President's Remarks:

Bob asked the audience what did you do to protect Democracy in the 2020 elections? **What more can you do in 2024** that will defeat the MAGA extremism that wants to take over our local governments?

- See Lynne Leonard to find out about our Elections Committee and sign up to help.
- Buy into the 50/50 Raffle. The winner gets half and the other half goes directly to candidates.
- Donate to the Victory Fund on our website. Checks have already been given to Democratic candidates who are on the ballot and more will be awarded next month.
- Sign candidate petitions and then contribute \$5 to Clean Elections candidates on E-Qual or send contributions directly to candidates doing traditional fund-raising. These last include county candidates who are not eligible for Clean Elections funding.
- E-mail Claudia Yeager-Smith at [honeygirlmom@yahoo.com](mailto:honeygirlmom@yahoo.com) to find out how you can become a paid poll worker or volunteer poll observer.
- Become informed about the election process by touring the Maricopa Election Center. Sherry Douglas is taking names after the meeting and will arrange a tour for those interested.

#### Committee Reports:

- Social Chair Judy Shields reminded members of the **Annual Picnic on April 7<sup>th</sup>** at the Lakeside Pavilion. The deadline is Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, to get your \$10 ticket which covers the cost of site rental, burgers, brats and table settings. Bring a side dish and only non-alcoholic beverages (No bar, but soda, ice tea and water will be available).
- The Blue Breakfasts on the first Tuesday of the month at 9 am will continue to meet at Betty's Rooste. Judy is talking to the new restaurant Maple & Rye about their availability for either the Blue Breakfast or the Blue Dinner on the third Thursday of the month, meeting at Angela's on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. [Note: The April 18 Blue Dinner will be held at Maple and Rye.]
- [Approval of the February *General Meeting Minutes* and presentation of the *Treasurer's* and other *Committee Reports* were deferred to April.]

**Future Meetings.** Please RSVP on the website.

- The April 17<sup>th</sup> General Meeting is one week earlier than usual. Congressional candidates Greg Whitten and Bernadette Greene Placentia, winners of the straw vote taken after our January meeting, will have a second opportunity ask for your vote in the July 30 primary. Joshua Polacheck, who is running for the Corporation Commission, is also expected.
- The May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting—Nonpartisan Election Night—will host Surprise Mayor, City Council and Dysart School Board candidates.
- The June 26<sup>th</sup> General Meeting will be the last before the July 30<sup>th</sup> primary, a “round robin” open to any candidates who want to make a final appeal. We will also hear from Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (CEBV), a grassroots nonpartisan organization based in Arizona. Their mission is to empower voters to make informed decisions in local and state elections.
- No meetings are held in July and August.
- September 21<sup>st</sup> will be the Super Rally with a chance to hear from all the democratic candidates running in the November election. See Barbara Nelson or Jonita Bigelow to volunteer for this event.

### **E-QUAL.**

- Bob and Sarah Tyree again demonstrated E-QUAL, the Secretary of State’s website which can be accessed from [www.granddems.org](http://www.granddems.org). (Check February *Minutes* for details.)
- Sarah asked members to sign the paper petitions for School Board Candidates because they are not listed on E-Qual.

That concluded the business part of the meeting.

### **PROGRAM**

**Guest Speaker, Eric Limbs**, Deputy Executive Director of the Democratic Party, is an Arizona native with 30 years experience in politics. Beginning as a volunteer for VP Al Gore, he earned a White House internship that led to a career in national politics and attended five Democratic National Conventions, including as a senior staff member on the Democratic National Convention Committee in 2016. Since his return to Arizona, he has worked hard to elect Democrats to offices around our state, and especially in Maricopa County, the largest battleground county in the U.S.

At this moment in history, we are in a battle to preserve democracy. There is a MAGA candidate, an election-denier, for every office. The Maricopa Democratic Party is meeting the challenge with 16 Democratic candidates, the most ever in 100 years, running against them. In addition to an organizer for the East Valley, Sam Dent has come on board to organize the West Valley in support of David Sandoval’s campaign against Debbie Lesko for County Supervisor. The party plans a “golden ticket” of endorsements for candidates in the November election and fundraisers in support of these candidates including:

- The Maricopa Democrats 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this April 18<sup>th</sup>, a Diamond Event Fundraiser featuring Simon Rosenberg, Democratic strategist and frequent consultant on MSNBC.
- The Circle of Friends, which promotes engagement with the party through bimonthly meetings and special events, for those giving \$1000/year or \$85/month.

### **Candidates:**

- **Greg Freeman** is running for County Assessor, an office in charge of identifying, assessing, classifying, and valuing more than 1.8 million parcels and business personal property accounts in the nation’s fastest growing county. He has worked in the real estate field for many years, watching the housing shortage grow into a crisis. At the top of his list of practical solutions is revising the 2016 law that stripped cities of their authority to regulate short-term/vacation rentals which have multiplied at the expense of family housing.
- **Tyler Kamp** wants to be Sheriff after two decades in law enforcement with the Phoenix PD and one year as a Director of Investigations and Developing Law Enforcement in

West Africa. That and his work with non-profits, helping people with issues of housing, food security, education and health, have given him a holistic vision of “justice for all” that includes not only accountability but also prevention and restoration.

- **Laura Metcalfe** is running for County Superintendent of Schools with a wealth of experience in the education field from teaching high school to district-level administration and as the Small Schools Administrator for Maricopa County. She promises fiscal integrity and transparency, as well as more help for overlooked schools like the School for the Deaf and Blind and tribal schools. With her power to appoint replacements when elected school board members leave before their terms are complete, she will not approve anyone espousing MAGA politics.
- **David Sandoval** is opposing Debbie Lesko for a seat on the Board of Supervisors. As a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Arizonan, marketing consultant and president of the Peoria School Board, he has deep roots in the county and experience in navigating cultural conflict. His priorities are public education and infrastructure including building homes and improving transportation in the County.
- **Tamika Wooten** brings almost 30 years of experience as an attorney, prosecutor, defense lawyer and judge to her campaign for County Attorney. She will focus on prosecuting serious crimes, reducing the prison population and helping those who are released to successfully transition to a better life.

The meeting closed with the announcement of the 50/50 Raffle winner.